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Leading Scientist to Discuss Climate Change's Impacts on New Mexico

Free July 27 Lecture to Kick Off Governor Richardson's Climate Change Efforts

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will host a lecture and question and answer session titled **Climate Change: What's Ahead for the Southwest**, on **Wednesday July 27 from 7-9 pm in the Runnels Building Auditorium, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive, in Santa Fe (northwest corner of St. Francis Drive and Alta Vista St.)**

The free lecture will feature Dr. John Overpeck the Director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth (ISPE) at the University of Arizona, where he is also a Professor of Geosciences and a Professor of Atmospheric Sciences. Most recently, Dr. Overpeck was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to investigate paleoenvironmental perspectives on the future.

This lecture and public information session furthers the efforts to combat climate change launched last month by Governor Bill Richardson. The Executive Order signed by the Governor on June 9 mandates a thorough evaluation of ways to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sets aggressive reduction goals, and creates the New Mexico Climate Change Advisory Group with broad industry and environmental representation. The first meeting of this advisory group will also be on July 27. It is made up of approximately 40 representatives including the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM), Phelps Dodge, the New Mexico Farm Bureau, Angel Fire Ski Area, Duke Energy, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Sierra Club, Coalition for Clean and Affordable Energy, Navajo Nation, All Indian Pueblo Council, and the Municipal League.

Scientists have found that a warmer New Mexico will experience:

- A reduction in water supplies
- Shorter and warmer winters with winter precipitation falling more often as rain
- Earlier snowmelts
- Greater water loss due to evaporation
- More wildfires
- More extreme weather events, such as drought and floods

For more information please contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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